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in the tables published in the paper, the authors say, must be accepted with caution. Some are more reliable than others, but none is correct to a foot, and many investigations will have to be completed before altitudes can be determined with a greater degree of accuracy than at present.

> "All observations are liable to error; no telescope is perfect, no level is entirely trustworthy, no instrumental graduations are exact, and no observer is infallible. . . . Errors of measurement, however, can be greatly reduced and rendered practically negligible, if a peak be observed with a good theodolite on several occasions and from different stations."

Table XIV shows that 887 peaks have been discovered in the Himalaya and in Tibet exceeding 20,000' feet in height. Analyses of the great peaks of the Himalaya and Karakoram are given in a series of tables and charts show the geographical position of peaks of various magnitudes and the outlines of some of the great mountains and ranges.

The Topography and Geology of the Peninsula of Sinai (Southeastern portion). By W. F. Hume, Superintendent Egyptian Geological Survey. 280 pp. Maps, Photographs and Index. Survey Department, Cairo, 1906.

This large octavo is a valuable contribution to geography. Scarcely any traveller has examined the southeastern part of the Sinai peninsula and still fewer have mapped any portion of it. The Admiralty sheets, of course, correctly outline the coasts, but our general knowledge of the region has been superficial. It is almost entirely a desert of rock, gravel and boulder, and many arid valleys, plateaus and ridges, the whole forming a scene of desolation. Yet here and there, where, after sudden thunder storms, the waters rush down the main valleys, are found some fertile spots, oases of palms, seyal trees and rushes making pictures full of life and beauty. The inhabitants of these fertile spots have a good reputation for honesty and independence of character. They are active climbers, keen sportsmen, and the necessity of finding water and camel food brings the natives into close acquaintance with every recess of their hills.

Over half the work is given to a detailed description of the geography and topography of Eastern Sinai and to extended notes on the botanical, zoological and economic features of the region. Six chapters describe the geology, and the appendices certain detailed reports on the meteorological observations and the structure of the igneous region, with lists of plants and previous literature. The work will be welcomed as authoritative on all phases of the Southeastern part of the peninsula. The maps are noted in *New Maps* in this number.

Gesammelte Abhandlungen aus den Gebieten der Meteorologie und des Erdmagnetismus. Von Wilhelm von Bezold. viii and 448 pp., 66 Diagrams and 3 Maps. Friedrich Vieweg & Son, Brunswick, 1906.

Scientific specialists always welcome the collections of the lectures and papers of authoritative fellow-workers, because it is not so convenient to refer to them when they are scattered through various publications. It is gratifying that the literary output of so eminent a meteorologist as the late Prof. Dr. Bezold was put together by the lamented author the year before his death and published in this handsome volume. The collection opens with Bezold's "Beobachtungen über die Dämmerung," published in 1864, which spread the author's fame as a meteorologist far beyond his own country. Then follow three lectures upon storms, in which the author discusses the frequency and intensity of storms in their relation